

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-9 are pending in this application, Claims 1, 3, 6, and 9 having been amended, and Claims 2, 4, and 10-35 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is found, for example, in original Claims 2 and 4. Claims 3, 6, and 9 are amended to correct some minor antecedent basis informalities. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added, and that no new issues are raised. Applicants respectfully request that the present amendment be entered.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,441,247 to Quilliam in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,098,536 to Ohkawa; and Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Quilliam and Ohkawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,205,918 to Takahashi; Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Quilliam and Ohkawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,543,894 to Carolan; and Claim 4 was indicated as including allowable subject matter.

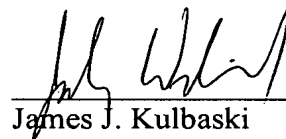
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants note that the Office Action mailed on October 17, 2006 indicated that Claim 4 was allowable. Accordingly, Claim 1 is amended to have the same scope as Claim 4 that was examined for the Office Action mailed on October 17, 2006. Accordingly, amended Claim 1 (and any claims dependent thereon) are in condition for allowance.

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Reply to Office Action of April 2, 2007

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for formal allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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